(b) Amendments to the Specification

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 58, line 8 and ending on page 59, line 17 with the following replacement paragraph:

--A method for producing the toner particles of the present invention preferably includes removing a certain amount of fine powders and coarse powders from the toner ingredient particles pulverized close to a desired particle size in advance using an air sifter, and subjecting the toner particles to surface modification and removal of the ultrafine powder component through the surface modification device. Removal of the fine powders in advance results in satisfactory dispersion of the toner particles inside the surface modification device. The fine powder component in the toner particles, in particular, has a large specific area and has a relatively higher charge amount compared to other large toner particles. Therefore, the fine powder component is hardly separated from other toner particles, and the ultrafine powder component may not be adequately classified by the classification rotor. However, removing the fine powder component in the toner particles in advance allows easier dispersion of individual toner particles inside the surface modification device and adequate classification of the ultrafine powder component by the classification rotor, thus providing toner particles having a desired particle size distribution. The toner with the fine powders removed using the air sifter preferably has a cumulative value of a number average distribution of the toner particles having a particle diameter of less than 4 μm of 10% to less than 50%, preferably 15% to less than 45%, more preferably 15% to less than 40% in the particle diameter distribution measured using a ~~Coulter-counter~~ COULTER-COUNTER method. The ultrafine powder component can

be effectively removed using the surface modification device according to the present invention. Examples of the air sifter used in the present invention include "~~Elbow Jet~~ ELBOW JET" (manufactured by Nittetsu Mining Co., Ltd.).--

Please substitute all the paragraphs beginning sequentially on page 71, line 9 and ending on page 73, line 6 with the following replacement paragraphs:

--Known devices can be used for producing the magnetic toner of the present invention, and examples of the mixer include: ~~Henschel mixer~~ HENSCHEL MIXER (manufactured by Mitsui Mining Co., Ltd.); ~~Super mixer~~ SUPER MIXER (manufactured by Kawata Mfg. Co., Ltd.); ~~Ribocone~~ RIBOCONE (manufactured by Okawara Mfg. Co., Ltd.); ~~Nauta mixer~~ NAUTA MIXER, ~~Turbulizer~~ TURBULIZER, and ~~Cyclomix~~ CYCLOMIX (manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation); ~~Spiral pin mixer~~ SPIRAL PIN MIXER (manufactured by Pacific Machinery & Engineering Co., Ltd.); and ~~Redige mixer~~ REDIGE MIXER (manufactured by Matsubo Corporation).

Further, examples of the kneader include: KRC ~~kneader~~ KNEADER (manufactured by Kurimoto, Ltd.); ~~Buss-Co-Kneader~~ BUSS-CO-KNEADER (manufactured by Coperion BUSS AG); TEM ~~extruder~~ EXTRUDER (manufactured by Toshiba Machine Co., Ltd.); TEX ~~twin screw kneader~~ TWIN SCREW KNEADER (manufactured by Japan Steel Works, Ltd.); PCM ~~kneader~~ KNEADER (manufactured by Ikegai, Ltd.); ~~Three roll mill, Mixing roll mill, Kneader~~ THREE ROLL MILL, MIXING ROLL MILL, KNEADER (manufactured by Inoue-Nissei Engineering Pte., Ltd.); ~~Kneadex~~ KNEADEX (manufactured by Mitsui Mining Co., Ltd.); MS ~~type pressurizing kneader~~

TYPE PRESSURIZING KNEADER, and ~~Kneader ruder~~ KNEADER RUDER (manufactured by Moriyama Co., Ltd.); and ~~Banbury mixer~~ BANBURY MIXER (manufactured by Kobe Steel, Ltd.).

Further, examples of the pulverizer include: ~~Counter jet mill, Micron jet~~ COUNTER JET MILL, MICRON JET, and ~~Inomizer~~ INOMIZER (manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation); IDS ~~type mill~~ TYPE MILL, and PJM ~~jet pulverizer~~ JET PULVERIZER (manufactured by Nippon Pneumatic Mfg. Co., Ltd.); ~~Crossjet Mill~~ CROSSJET MILL (manufactured by Kurimoto, Ltd.); ~~Ulmax~~ ULMAX (manufactured by Nisso Engineering Co., Ltd.); SK ~~Jet-O-Mill~~ JET-O-MILL (manufactured by Seisin Enterprise Co., Ltd.); ~~Cliptron~~ CLIPTRON (manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.); ~~Turbo Mill~~ TURBO MILL (manufactured by Turbo Kogyo Co., Ltd.); and ~~Super Rotor~~ SUPER ROTOR (manufactured by Nisshin Engineering Inc.).

Further, examples of the classifier include: ~~Classiel, Micron Classifier~~ CLASSIEL, MICRON CLASSIFIER, and ~~Spedic Classifier~~ SPEDIC CLASSIFIER (manufactured by Seisin Enterprises Co., Ltd.); ~~Turbo Classifier~~ TURBO CLASSIFIER (manufactured by Nisshin Engineering Co., Ltd.); ~~Micron separator, Turboplex~~ MICRON SEPARATOR, TURBOPLEX (ATP), and TSP ~~Separator~~ SEPARATOR (manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Co., Ltd.); ~~Elbow-Jet~~ ELBOW-JET (manufactured by Nittetsu Mining Co., Ltd.); ~~Dispersion Separator~~ DISPERSION SEPARATOR (manufactured by Japan Pneumatic Co., Ltd.); and YM ~~Microcut~~ MICROCUT (manufactured by Yasukawa Electric Co., Ltd.).

Further, examples of the sieving device for sieving coarse particles or the like include: ~~Ultra Sonic~~ ULTRA SONIC (manufactured by Koei Sangyo Co., Ltd.); ~~Resona Sieve~~ RESONA SIEVE, and ~~Gyro Sifter~~ GYRO SIFTER (manufactured by Tokuju Corporation); ~~Vibrasonic System~~ VIBRASONIC SYSTEM (manufactured by Dalton Corporation); ~~Soniclean~~ SONICLEAN (manufactured by Sintokogio Co., Ltd.); ~~Turbo Screener~~ TURBO SCREENER (manufactured by Turbo Kogyo Co., Ltd.); ~~Micro Sifter~~ MICRO SIFTER (manufactured by Makino Mfg. Co., Ltd.); and ~~Circular Oscillation Screens~~ CIRCULAR OSCILLATION SCREENS.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 80, line 14 and ending on page 81, line 14 with the following replacement paragraph:

--The above materials were pre-mixed by using ~~Henschel Mixer~~ a HENSCHEL MIXER. Then, the mixed materials were melted and kneaded by using a two-axis extruder heated to 130°C. After the kneaded product was cooled, the kneaded product was roughly pulverized using a hammer mill, thus obtaining a toner coarse pulverized material. The resultant coarse pulverized material was finely pulverized through mechanical pulverization by using a mechanical pulverizer ~~turbo mill~~ TURBO MILL (manufactured by Turbo Industry Ltd.; rotator and stator surfaces were coated with chromium alloy plating containing chromium carbide (plating thickness 150 μm, surface hardness HV 1050)), with an inlet air temperature of the pulverizer, an outlet air temperature of the pulverizer, and a temperature of a coolant for cooling a pulverizing rotor and a liner adjusted to -15°C, 48°C, and -5°C, respectively. The fine powder and coarse

powder of the obtained fine pulverized material were strictly classified and removed at the same time by using a multidivision classifier that utilizes the Coanda effect (manufactured by Nittetsu Mining Co., Ltd., ~~Elbow-Jet~~ ELBOW-JET classifier).

Please substitute the paragraph at page 85, lines 5-9 with the following replacement paragraph:

--The following evaluations were made by using a machine obtained by remodeling a laser printer ~~Laser Jet~~ LASER JET 4300 manufactured by Hewlett-Packard (A4 size, vertical orientation, having a process speed of about 325 mm/sec) to 55 ppm.--

Please substitute the paragraph at page 85, lines 21-25 with the following replacement paragraph:

--A relative density is measured by a reflection densitometer "~~Macbeth reflection densitometer~~ MACBETH REFLECTION DENSITOMETER" (manufactured by Macbeth Ltd.) as a relative density with respect to a print-out image of a white ground portion of 0.00.--